

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on January 21, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully considered. Additionally attached to this Amendment is a Petition for a One Month Extension of Time, extending the period for response to May 21, 2003.

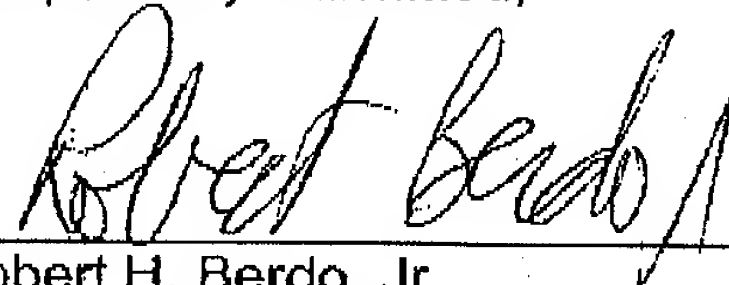
In this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 7, 9 and 11 have been amended. Claims 2, 6 and 8 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 7, 9 and 11 remain pending in the application. Claims 1 and 7 are the independent claims. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants would like to take this opportunity to thank the Examiner for granting the personal interview that was conducted at the United States Patent and Trademark Office on April 29, 2003. During this interview, it was agreed that claims 1 and 7 would be amended in the manner presented by this Amendment. It was further agreed that these changes would overcome both the Examiner's Section 112, Second paragraph rejections of the claims, as well as all of the prior art rejections of the claims. It was also agreed that these changes would be entered. It is thus requested that all of the Examiner's rejections be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action, and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a further conference would help to expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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April 30, 2003
Date

RHB:rhb

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Amendment

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